

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/645,276

Examiner

Albert K. Wong

Applicant(s)

VINEGAR ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 8/21/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 61-73.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. This Office action is in response to the application filed August 21, 2003. This application is a divisional of 09/768,655 (Patent 6,633,236), filed January 24, 2001. Claims 1-45 and 59-60 are pending. It is noted that applicant has not filed any IDSs, however, the references cited and considered in the parent application are similarly considered in the instant application.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rachel Stigel on May 17, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-45 and 59-60.

Please enter the following new claims:

61. (new) A power distribution system comprising:
- a piping structure comprising a first location, a second location, and an electrically conductive portion extending between said first and second locations, wherein said first and second locations are distally spaced along said piping structure;
 - a first device electrically connected to said electrically conductive portion of said piping structure along said first location, said first device being adapted to use a time-varying current;
 - a second device electrically connected to said electrically conductive portion of said piping structure along said second location, said second device being adapted to use a time-varying current; and

an induction choke located about a portion of said piping structure, said induction choke being adapted to route time-varying current within said piping structure, and such that said first device and said second device are operable using a time-varying current applied to said piping structure.

62. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 61, wherein said induction choke comprises a ferromagnetic material.

63. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 61, wherein said induction choke is unpowered.

64. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 61, wherein said induction choke is generally toroidal shaped and is generally concentric about said piping structure.

65. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 61, wherein said choke is generally cylindrical shaped having a generally cylindrical borehole formed therethrough.

66. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 61, wherein said induction choke is substantially electrically insulated from said piping structure.

67. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 61, wherein said time-varying current is an alternating current.

68. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 61, wherein at least a portion of said piping structure is within a petroleum well.

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69. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 68, wherein said second location extends downhole, and wherein at least a portion of said first location is between said second location and the surface.

70. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 68, wherein said first location is downhole, and said second location is part of a lateral branch of said well.

71. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 68, wherein said piping structure comprises at least a portion of a production tubing string.

72. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 68, wherein said piping structure comprises at least a portion of a well casing.

73. (new) A power distribution system in accordance with claim 68, wherein said piping structure comprises at least a portion of a liner for a lateral branch of said well.

3. Claims 61-73 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims recite an power distribution system that uses an induction choke to route a time-varying current within a piping structure in combination with a first and a second device located on conductive portions of the piping structure that use the varying current. Such a combination is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert K. Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-3057. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 703-305-4704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ALBERT K. WONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Albert K. Wong
May 21, 2005